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along the banks of ravines and at the base of hilly slopes where conditions are rather unfavorable. There are a number of characteristic grasses, which go to make up the great bulk of the prairie. The little blue stem or bunch grass, *Andropogon scoparius* Michx., grows mostly on the hills and ridges, while the big blue stem, *Andropogon furcatus* Muhl., occupies the more level and richer areas. Along with the big blue stem the Indian grass, *Chrysopogon nutans* (L.) Benth., and the switch grass, *Panicum virgatum* L., occur in considerable abundance, while in very wet ravines it is largely displaced by the slough grass *Spartina cynosuroides* Willd.—JOHN H. SCHAFFNER, *Columbus. O.*

## A WASHING APPARATUS.

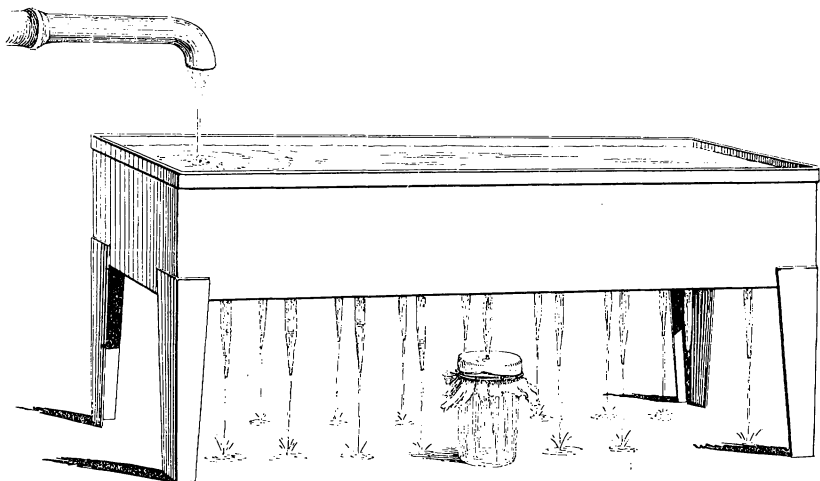
(WITH FIGURE.)

FOR some time we have felt the need in our laboratory of an apparatus adapted to washing material fixed in certain solutions, such as chromic acid and Flemming's chromo-aceto-osmic mixture. Such a device should be at once simple in structure, capable of accommodating several bottles of material at once, and should provide a current of water strong enough to insure a constant and gentle agitation of the material, and at the same time one not so violent as to injure the most delicate tissues.

Such an apparatus has been made for our own laboratory, and after a year of use it fills all the requirements so perfectly that it has been thought desirable to publish a description of it in the hope that others might profit by our experience. It consists, essentially, of a trough supported on legs, and provided with a cork bottom, through holes in which are passed glass tubes drawn out to a point at the lower end. When the material is ready for washing, a fine meshed cloth is stretched over the mouth of the bottle, and held in place by a rubber band. The bottle is then placed beneath the trough, and one of the tubes is lowered until the pointed end projects through the cloth into the bottle. If water be then allowed to run into the trough until it is nearly full, the head of water will be sufficient to cause it to flow through the glass tube into the bottle with just enough force to produce a gentle agitation or circulation of the material. The water passes off through the meshes of the cloth.

The trough may, of course, be made of any material, of any size,

and high enough to accommodate any bottle. The one here described is of tin, 6.25<sup>cm</sup> deep, and of a size to fit the ordinary sheet of insect cork, 8.75<sup>cm</sup> × 29.5<sup>cm</sup>. The space beneath the trough is 7.5<sup>cm</sup> high. The cork bottom should be at least 1<sup>cm</sup> thick to be sufficiently stiff. The holes are 1.8<sup>cm</sup> from the edge, and are 3.75<sup>cm</sup> apart. This gives room for eighteen 25<sup>mm</sup> bottles of material to be washed at one time



A WASHING APPARATUS.

without crowding. The cork is supported by having the sides and ends of the trough turned in 5<sup>mm</sup> at the bottom. In addition to this, the bottom should be held by at least four narrow metal cross pieces, both above and below, to prevent the cork from warping when wet. The glass tubes are 6.75<sup>cm</sup> long, with an inside diameter of 3<sup>mm</sup>. They should fit just tightly enough in the holes to allow of being slipped up and down. The trough is kept in a sink under one faucet, and only a small stream is needed to keep it running. One needs only to see the apparatus at work to be convinced of its completeness.—ELIAS J. DURAND, *Botanical Laboratory, Cornell University*.

#### PHACELIA COVILLEI AT MT. CARMEL, ILL.

ON May 5, 1889, Mr. F. V. Coville found a *Phacelia* on Larkspur island, on the Potomac, about five miles above Washington, D. C.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BOT. GAZ. 21 : 233. 1896.